2: Damm et al. --76 [2] (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 586 Ifaluk

Divorce is frequent. This is a very simple procedure; either a man leaves his wife, or she says that he must return to his own house. In this case the children are separated too; the boys belong to the man, the girls to the woman. Babies remain with the mother, unless the man's sister wants to have them. If the man marries again, he must pay an indemnity to the wife in the form of aprons, chests, boats etc. This is true for the wife too, only her family takes charge of the payment for her. There is a curious custom that this payment is disregarded if both partners marry again on the same day. In the other case, the one who weds first is the only one to make the payment, even if the other one is married on the following day.

4: Krämer--112-113
116, 586

(1909) 1937

Woleaians
Lamotrek

A separation, moemoe, is initiated by the family of the husband which tries to free him by presents. To absolve someone from a marriage or to break it is known as moemoe; unless this is done well and the issue is absolutely settled, it may happen that [113] years later one party is punished by the other when a new marriage is to be contracted or even in the case of death; then they may confiscate canoes and take similar steps. The man is not free until a real separation has been effected.

6: Senfft--56
116, 586

(no date) 1905

Woleaians
Woleai
Lamotrek

A married couple can separate without much difficulty; this happens frequently in the case of young couples. No special formalities are connected with this.

28: Spiro--134-135
116, 586, 837

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians-1-4
Ifalik

"Divorce, zamotalax though its incidence is small, there being only eleven cases of 66 marriages studied in the geneologies, is very easy. The dissatisfied partner merely informs his spouse of his decision. There is no ceremony or legal proceedure involved, nor any property settlement. The children, of course, remain with the mother. Though divorce is easy, the culture recognizes certain basic causes. [1]. The spouse does not provide his/her parents-in-law with food. [2]. One spouse has a lover, and refuses to leave him/her. [3]. Either spouse is economically unskilled. The man is a poor provider. The woman is a poor cook, so that when visitors arrive from other islands, her husband does not offer them food, and is consequently ashamed. [4]. One of the spouses is sexually attracted to another person. If he is still young, his parents will exert pressure on him not to abandon his spouse. 'No. You chow fine face, fine body? Your wife look out for me. She (his new love) look out?' An actual analysis of the eleven cases of divorce reveals that four were instituted by women, eight by men, and in two of the three cases they were motivated by the husband's becoming psychotic, (malebush). Thus the man almost always divorces the woman. The actual reasons given for the divorces were as follows:

Desire for different spouse: four cases (2 men, 2 women)
Infidelity: three cases
Mental illness: two cases

Domestic ineptitude: one case (a woman)
Unknown: one case

Divorced couples are very cordial to each other, as are old and new mates of the same man and woman. They fish together, work together, care for each other's children, even in cases in which a man has divorced his wife for infidelity, the relationship between him and the man who seduced his wife, and who married her after her divorce, are warm and friendly. Both men are equally concerned about the children the woman bore the first husband, both take care of them and raise them.

From the above discussion it is apparent that marital infidelity does occur. As a matter of fact, its incidence is quite high. My informants insisted that almost every person--man and woman--has a lover. Now they may have been wrong, since all sexual activity is concealed, as we have seen, and they may have been guilty of a personal projection.

Now, whether they do or do not have lovers is, of course, important, but even if they do not, the statement of the informants is of great psychological importance, since it shows that they think it is true. That infidelity does occur, and that the people are disturbed by it, and become unhappy is indicated by a number of songs [135] collected by Dr. Burrows, in which a woman laments the infidelity of her husband. The motivations

of infidelity are not too clear. Tom, for example, was married to a woman, much younger than himself, and very attractive. He was much in love with her, praised her highly, and was generally very affectionate towards her. One evening I met him walking from his home, his hair combed, and his body perfumed. When I asked him where he was going, he became sheepish, and would not say. But he asked me not to walk past his own home, lest I see his wife. I asked why he did not wish me to see her, and he finally confessed that he was on his way to a liaison with a woman, and had told his wife that he was going out to see me. (16)

There seems little doubt then that married people do have affairs. Its incidence, however, is in doubt, but it does seem to be taken for granted by the people that everyone, including one's own spouse, is having an affair with another person. And this knowledge

---

"16. Later that evening, he came to our tent, very disappointed. The woman had not appeared. He was indignant, because she had lied to him. She had promised him that she would meet him, but did not. He had waited in the bush for her, and finally left, because it was getting dark, and he was afraid of the alus."

creates no apparent jealousy or anxiety. If the person is indiscreet, however, and his affair becomes known, his spouse will then insist that he terminate the affair, not because of jealousy, but because of shame. Infidelity constitutes an illicit aspersion on his sexual ability and attractiveness, and it is a blow to his ego that others should know. But the theoretical knowledge of infidelity is not disturbing, the philosophy being, apparently, that what you don't know won't hurt you."